Applegate Valley Historical Society
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May 2002 Newsletter

Elmore Family Era Ends at Applegate School

After 57 continuous years the last Elmore descendent living in the area graduates from Applegate School on June 11, 2002.

C.H. & Beryl Elmore have 7 children and 19 grandchildren that completed Applegate School. Their oldest child started in 1945 and grandchild started in 1968.
The 1988-89 school year had the most in attendance, which were 9 of the grandchildren

Here are some of the events that have happened over the years.

We withdrew enough land from Thompson Creek District to join Applegate District so the Elmore kids could go to Applegate School and not Thompson Creek School.

In 1945 2 teachers used 2 rooms, 1 room for the kitchen & dining, 1 for teaching class. There was a man & wife – cook & janitor- that lived in a little house at the base of the hill.

There were 2 telephone companies that divided the district- Jacksonville & Provolt. Teachers contacted those with Provolt numbers by sending word home with the kids.

1945-46 School Districts: Applegate; Thompson Creek; Provolt; Missouri Flat.

1946-47 they all consolidated into 1 Applegate District # 40.

A bus was purchased and Lester & Berteena Hill picked it up at the factory. Dana Grehardt was the new bus driver.

As enrollment grew they needed another table in the dining room. Word was sent to Beryl and she picked one up from the Community Hall and took it to school. A third room and teacher were added.

End of the school year there was get-togethers with Ruch. Potluck, games, track meets etc., alternating between Ruch and Applegate for many years.

In 1947 4-H was started by Ben Ellis, Francis Krouse and C.H. Elmore.

In 1948 teachers presented a carnival to buy a projector. They hadn't raised enough money.

In 1949 Beryl started the PTA because the teachers had borrowed money from the lunch fund to pay for the projector. Dues were $2.00 per person; they even signed up their husbands, and later changed to $1.00 per person. Beryl is a life time member of the Oregon PTA. Officers were elected. They were President Beryl Elmore; V-Pres. Myrtle Krouse; Sec. Emma Webber; Tres. Rosie Gibson. This organization continued off and on and is now known as PTSG, (Parent Teacher Student Group).

In the early 1950's Beryl started printing a 4-H monthly paper that went home with students of Applegate and Ruch. It listed all the meetings to be held at Applegate School.

The Kitchen was moved to the basement. Meetings and potlucks were held there as well as canning of fruit and vegetables. Beryl brought pears over from the valley, got donations of peaches that they had to pick and tomatoes for canning. The school used all this for lunches. They continued until the government restrictions wouldn't allow it. During WWII there was rationing of sugar, jars & lids to those that canned. Then they brought the canned goods to school. There were shelves built by Francis Krouse and Leo Hoffman in the storeroom under the stairs from lumber donated by the Hunter & Best Sawmill on Thompson Creek.

Graduations were held at the Community Hall until 1952, which was at the church.

Dec.1952 the Gym was completed and the 1953 class graduated in it, which is continued to present time.

With every member that went through the school came help from the parents and other family members. There have been thousands of hours spent in organizing and putting on the various functions and events. All this to help better the school. We've held school board positions, budget committee, and local school committee and helped with the merging of the district with Josephine County.

There will continue to be lots of changes for the years to come.

Thanks to the community of Applegate for they're continuing support of Applegate School.

Written by Beryl Elmore and Barbara Niedermeyer

This information was submitted for the 2001/2002 Applegate School Yearbook.

Hope this finds everyone enjoying the spring weather. Our next meeting will be Saturday May 18th at 10:00 AM at the Museum. I hope you have a chance to stop and look at the beautiful flowers that are blooming around the Museum. Peggy has done a great job.

The Museum was on the list of places for the First Annual Great Applegate History Mystery Hunt that took place on April 20th put on by the Applegate Valley Community Forum. Peggy had several visitors that day and she gave out lots of information about the Applegate Valley.

Last time I told you that three Applegate School 8th grade girls, Michi Couch; Liz Niedermeyer; & Amber Rametes were going to compete at the State History contest at Willamette University in Salem on April 20th. Well they took 2nd place in their category. They have the opportunity to compete at the National level at the University of Maryland on June 9th to 13th. Sorry to say but they are NOT going as their 8th Grade Graduation is on June 11th and they all said they have waited 9 years for this day and they aren't going to miss it. At least they all know that they had the chance to go. Congratulations Amber, Liz & Michi for a great skit on Women Suffrage.

We will be hosting the JCHMA (Jackson County History Museums Association) meeting on May 9th at 10:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend. We hope to find out about the budget money from the county. See you then.

A reminder that we are having a quilt raffle again this year. Tickets are $1.00 for 1 or $5.00 for 6. The drawing will be at the annual meeting in November. Need not be present to win. Thanks to those of you that have purchased tickets already.

The Applegate School is holding their annual Duck Race on June 9th at Wayside Park next to Applegate Store. The rubber ducks will be released at 1:00 PM up river and will be caught at the park. The ducks sell for $5.00 each. Need not be present to win one of the many prizes. Let me know if you're interested in a duck. The Applegate Lions will have a B-B-Q of pork & chicken with all the fixings starting about 11:30 AM. The proceeds will be split with the school. Hope you can come and enjoy the day visiting with friends and neighbors and root on your duck.

The next AVHS meeting will be May 18th at the Museum at 10:00 AM. Don't forget your lawn chair. See you then.

Barbara Niedermeyer
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